

NOVEMBER 2018

URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



THANK YOU TO COUNCILLOR KEVIN WARD

A Message from the Mayor



It is with great regret that I inform you Councillor Kevin Ward has resigned, due to continuing ill health, from Uralla Shire Council after 14 years of service to our community.

Kevin was elected to Council in 2004 and is very well known and respected within the Uralla Shire. He has a strong connection with many sporting clubs within Uralla, including the Uralla Tigers Rugby League club and the Uralla Golf Club.

Kevin and I struck up a friendship in Council through our mutual interest in Rugby League.

Kevin was elected, as Mayor from 2010-2011 and I was fortunate to act as his Deputy Mayor during this period. Kevin always connected with the community. He would listen to people's issues and concerns and bring them to the attention of Council. Kevin possess a wealth of both Local Government and State Government knowledge. He is always willing to assist and help community members as well as give advice to the other councillors. Kevin will be missed in his role as a councillor, both by the community and by his councillor colleagues.

Thank you for your significant contribution Kevin.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SOUGHT

Uralla Shire Council is currently seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from:

- Local contractors and tradespeople including builders, floorers, plumbers, roofers, electricians, painters, etc. to assist in delivering the **Drought Communities Assistance Program** projects. To register for Council's list of providers to quote on work, please email council@uralla.nsw.gov.au with the following: contractor details, licences, insurances and your hourly rates, and a brief statement about your services.

For further information on the Expressions of Interest and to lodge your EOI, please contact Council's Administration Centre on 6778 6300 or via email at council@uralla.nsw.gov.au.

COUNCIL CONTACTS

Mayor Cr Michael Pearce
0488 752 520

Deputy Mayor Cr Bob Crouch
0428 616 885

Councillors

Cr Robert Bell Cr Mark Dusting
Cr Natasha Ledger Cr Levi Sampson
Cr Isabel Strutt Cr Tara Toomey
Cr Kevin Ward

General Manager

Mr Andrew Hopkins

Council Administration

PO Box 106 Uralla NSW 2358
Ph. 02 **6778 6300** Fax. 02 6778 6349

Email: council@uralla.nsw.gov.au

Council Website:

www.uralla.nsw.gov.au

Tourism Website: www.uralla.com

Community Services Website:
www.communityservices.uralla.com

Bundarra Works Depot:

Ph. 02 6723 7262 or 0428 406 517

Emergency Contacts

After-Hours and Public Holidays

Overseer: 0427 784 982

Water / Sewer: 0427 784 304

Report all Fires: 000

Fallen Trees and SES: 132 500

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next scheduled Council meeting is on **Tuesday, 27 November** at 12.30pm.

The next Uralla Township & Environs Committee meeting is on **Tuesday, 13 November** at 6pm in the Council Chambers.

These meetings are open to the public. Council meeting agendas and reports can be viewed and downloaded from our website: uralla.nsw.gov.au

WHAT'S ON IN URALLA SHIRE

November

- Sat 10 Sing for Fun – 10am United Church Hall
 Thu 15 Lego Club – Uralla Library
 Fri 16 Uralla Central School 2018 Showcase & Drought Support
 Sat 17 Thunderbolt Rodeo
 Tue 20 Book Discussion Group – Uralla Library
 Fri 23 Comedy evening with Carlo Ritchie & friends at McCrossin's Mill – 7.30pm
 Sat 24 Sing for Fun – 10am United Church Hall

Check <http://www.uralla.com/events> for your local calendar of events and be sure to let us know if you have an event to be added via visit@uralla.com or ph **02 6778 6420**.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Uralla Shire Council is currently seeking community feedback on the below items which have been placed on public exhibition by resolution of Council:

- **Visitor Information Centre (VIC) Improvement Project – Concept Designs.** Concept designs to improve the internal layout and external appearance of the VIC.
- **'Small Regular Usage of Hall' fee at Bundarra School of Arts Hall.** Reduce fee from \$14 to \$10 per session.

Submissions for both matters close at 5pm Wednesday 5 December 2018.

Further information on both matters on public exhibition can be accessed from Council's website at www.uralla.nsw.gov.au (under the Public Notices tab) or inspected at Council's Administration Centre at 32 Salisbury Street, Uralla. Submissions may be made by email to Council@uralla.nsw.gov.au or by letter to:

The General Manager, Uralla Shire Council
 ▪ PO Box 106, URALLA NSW 2358.

BARLEYFIELDS ROAD SPEED ZONE

Council has received a request from the Roads and Maritime Services to install signage altering the Barleyfields Road Speed zone. Signs will soon be erected by Council staff to reduce the current 100km/hr speed zone to 80km/hr.

MUCH NEEDED FUNDING FROM THE NSW GOVERNMENT!

Northern Tablelands MP, the Hon Adam Marshall, announced NSW Government 'Stronger Country Communities Funding' in October to upgrade the following:

- ✓ Repairs and upgrade to the Uralla Swimming Pool – \$274,471
- ✓ Upgrades to the Uralla Sporting Complex - \$247,292
- ✓ Upgrades to the Uralla Tennis Courts - \$198,582
- ✓ Upgrades to parks at Bundarra (x2), Kingstown, Invergowrie and Kentucky - \$284,426
- ✓ Pathways at Invergowrie and Mt Mutton - \$207,000
- ✓ New amenities block at Bundarra Sport and Rec' - \$197,300
- ✓ Upgrades to Uralla Tigers Rugby League Club facilities - \$145,000

Mr Marshall was in Uralla in October with Uralla Shire Mayor Mick Pearce, pool manager Martin Williams and Uralla Cricket Club secretary/treasurer Leigh Kelly to deliver the news that will see repairs and a major upgrade to the pool, sporting complex and tennis courts.



ST JOSEPH'S FETE SUNDAY 2 DECEMBER



11am to 2pm - St Joseph's School Grounds.

Come along and join in a friendly social gathering, enjoy a tasty barbeque, maybe win a ham on the chocolate wheel or a raffle prize, check out the variety of stalls and take the opportunity to buy some **Christmas** gifts!

Barbeque – Drinks - Tea & Coffee - Cakes – Plants - Tombola - Chocolate Wheel - White Elephant – Craft - Face Painting - Family Numbers - Wood Raffle - Pony Rides - Raffles - Children's Games & Activities and a visit from Santa Claus!

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION CONSULTATION DEFERRED

As part of its 2015 'Fit for the Future Improvement Program' submitted to the State Government, Council committed to making an application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) to increase its General Rate - ie a special rate variation (SRV). Accordingly, Council's current Operational Plan includes the following action item "Make an application for a special rate variation in accordance with the IPART's criteria, subject to the approval and resolution of Council".

The process for applying for an SRV is as follows:

- 1) Construct a long term (10 year) financial plan (LTFP) which clearly indicates why an SRV is required and the value of that SRV.
- 2) Council determines whether to commence consultation with the community about a potential SRV. When deciding whether to take this step Council must consider the full SRV increase identified by the LTFP.
- 3) If Council determines to take step 2 it then consults with the community about the SRV, including consultation about what options could be taken to reduce the extent of the increase. For example, reduced services/service levels and efficiency improvements.
- 4) After community consultation, Council then needs to formally resolve whether it will make an application to IPART to increase rates and the amount of that increase.

On Thursday 18th October 2018 Council conducted an Extraordinary Meeting to consider an independently constructed LTFP and to determine whether to commence community consultation (ie step 2 above) about a potential special rate variation (SRV). The full report is contained on Council's website.

Council resolved not to proceed with an SRV this year. It also resolved to form a Budget Review and Finance Committee to examine Council's financial position and undertake a detailed review of the Council's budget and expenditure. The committee, which includes all councillors, is tasked with the following:

- a) Examining Council's budget and service delivery to keep the budget in surplus.
- b) Focusing on key Council functions and to clearly identify options to service level delivery and operating procedures necessary to support (a).
- c) Scrutinising discretionary expenditure, including cost benefit analysis as appropriate for recommendation to Council.
- d) Meet monthly or as determined by the committee.

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD NOMINATIONS



URALLA



Nominations are invited for **Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Senior Citizen of the Year** and **Sports Awards**, to be presented on Australia Day 2019. Nominees must be Australian citizens and live in the Uralla Shire. Young Citizen of the Year nominees must be under twenty-seven years of age on 26 January 2019, and Senior Citizen nominees must be aged seventy years or over.

Nomination forms are available from the Uralla Shire Council office, Uralla Library, Uralla Post Office, Regional Australia Bank and National Bank, or contact the Secretary of the Uralla Australia Day Committee on phone 6778 4328. Nominations will close on Friday 14 December 2018. Nominations received after this date will not be considered.

THE URALLA SHOW IS BACK IN 2019!

The 2019 Uralla Show will be held on Saturday 2 February.

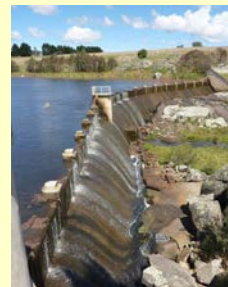
If you have previously expressed an interest or would like to be part of the Uralla Show as a volunteer - **please contact us now**.

For more information, please phone:

Bill Upjohn 6778 4631 or Sue Barnden 0401 307 161

URALLA WATER RESTRICTIONS LIFTED

Recent rainfall in the Kentucky Creek catchment has restored water volumes in Kentucky Creek Dam to 100%. As such, water restrictions for Uralla have been lifted.



BUNDARRA WATER RESTRICTIONS LIFTED

Recent rainfall in the Gwydir River catchment has restored water volumes in Taylors Pond to 100%. As such, water restrictions have been lifted.

URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

November 2018

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION AND COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE APPROVALS / REFUSALS September 2018

Approvals:

Application No.	Applicant	Property	Development
DA-39-2018	New England North West Planning Services	1039 Barraba Road, Bundarra	Rural 3 Lot Subdivision
DA-45-2018	Mr R Stewart & Ms J Egan	5 Elizabeth Avenue, Uralla	Double Carport
CDC-23-2018	Mr L & Mrs T Jeffers	1 Sandon Close, Uralla	Dwelling Additions
CDC-24-2018	Mr J & Mrs K Cohen	99 Dumaresq Road, Saumarez Ponds	Dwelling

Refusals: Nil

The Notices of Determination for the above Development Applications and Complying Development Certificates are available for public inspection, free of charge, during office hours at Uralla Shire Council pursuant to Section 101 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.



VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

Would you like to give back to your community? Do you enjoy driving? We are looking for Volunteer drivers to assist in transporting our elderly clients to appointments.

Please call and speak to Christine from Tablelands Community Transport on **6778 6450**

WEDNESDAY ACCESS BUS

Wednesday Access Bus: Our mini-bus picks up clients from Uralla and Armidale each Wednesday morning. This service provides a door-to-door service giving access to the Armidale CBD in a friendly group setting. On your return home our driver will assist you to your front door with your shopping.

If you are interested in this service, please call the TCT office to see if you are eligible on **6778 6450**.

Z-NET NEWS

Z-NET has been out and about conducting biodiversity assessments on local properties to determine if there is adequate dead wood for firewood collection. We don't often think about the other values of dead wood as we stoke up our winter heaters. But wood is critical in the environment providing habitat for bugs and birds, protecting soil from erosion, increasing rain penetration, and slowly recycling nutrients into the soil.

We have called this project the Elephant in the Woodland, as we hope our firewood has been collected in a sustainable way but are often too scared or shy to ask the question when that critical wood delivery arrives! If you would like to come along on our next assessment, please contact Trish (projects@zneturalla.org.au). It is an easy half day enjoying our woodlands. This project is supported by NSW Environmental Trust.



Figure 1. Z-NET volunteers Elsie (L) and Leonie helping Project Officer Trish (R) assess the amount of dead wood on the ground to determine if this site has surplus wood that could be used for firewood, with minimal impact on the woodland.

KEY COUNCIL ACTIONS DURING OCTOBER

- Strategic Planning Workshop to discuss: business plans for McMaugh Gardens and TCS/TCT; Uralla Water Treatment Plant filters; drought assistance funding; potential special rate variation (SRV).
- Extraordinary Council Meeting to determine whether to commence consultation about SRV – abandoned for this financial year – see article in this newsletter.
- Ordinary Council Meeting – including: approving funds to replace the filters at the Uralla Water Treatment Plant; ratifying the recommendations of the Traffic Committee to seek funding for detailed design of the *High Pedestrian Activity Area Concept Plan for Bridge Street, Uralla*; accepting EPA conditions for sewer licence; entering into a management contract for the Queens Street Caravan Park; placing the concept plans for the VIC on public display – see public notice in this newsletter. The minutes of the meeting can be view on Council's website.
- Identified the projects for which funding will be sought under the Drought Communities Program. These are, in priority order, upgrades and repairs to:
 - Uralla Memorial Hall
 - Grace Munro Centre
 - Uralla Showgrounds
 - Bundarra Hall
 - Kentucky Hall
 - Composite project.
 - Uralla Preschool

Additional consideration will be given to the potential funding of roadside weed and vermin control and the holding of community events.

One of the Drought Communities Funding Program aims is to:

- Increase employment in regions by providing work for locals/farmers and farm staff/contractors whose employment has been affected by drought (**tradespeople please see Expression of Interest on page 3**)